

Application Serial Number 10/646,577

Dated: March 15, 2006

Reply to Office Action dated: February 24, 2006

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended in a manner to better define the invention and more clearly distinguish over the cited prior art; claims 2, 3, 13, 15 and 21 are cancelled to simplify the issues remaining for consideration; and the remaining claims are amended to provide consistency with the language of claim 1 as amended.

The claims stand rejected as unpatentable over *Neuschwanger et al.* in view of *Gedritis et al.* and further in view of *Eustache et al.* on the grounds that it would have been obvious to form the cowl structure of *Neuschwanger* by a gas assisted molding process in view of *Gedritis* and it would have been obvious to provide laterally spaced grille openings in the cowl structure in view of *Eustache*.

Please note first of all that primary reference to *Neuschwanger* does not disclose a cowl grille structure but rather discloses a pipe 68 running substantially parallel to the base of the windshield under the hood or under the cowl of the vehicle (column 3, ll. 23-25) and including ends 78-80 extending up through the cowl (column 3, ll. 31-32). Applicant's invention involves the utilization of the cowl grille structure to further provide the routing for the washer fluid thereby simplifying the overall construction of the vehicle by combining the structure and functions of the cowl and the washer fluid apparatus. *Neuschwanger* totally fails to recognize or address this problem and this solution and specifically provides apparatus and piping to deliver fluid to the windshield that is totally independent of the cowl structure.

Claim 1 has herein been amended to emphasize this important distinction by requiring that the cowl grille structure include a molded main body planar leaf screen plate portion for positioning in the space between a lower edge of the motor vehicle windshield and a rear edge of the hood to define the cowl structure for the vehicle; by further requiring that the planar plate portion define a washer fluid channel extending laterally along the forward edge of the main body plate portion and formed integrally with the main body plate portion; and to further require that the planar plate portion further define mounting housing structure molded integrally with the main body plate portion at laterally spaced locations and forming a plurality of laterally spaced, rearwardly opening cavities for receiving a plurality of windshield washer nozzle members with each cavity in fluid communication with the channel

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whereby windshield washer fluid may be delivered to the nozzle member through the channel provided as an integral portion of the cowl structure.

The combination of the functions of the windshield washer apparatus and the cowl structure, as now clearly and specifically set forth in claim 1, is clearly not taught by *Neuschwanger* nor by either of the secondary references.

With reference to claim 22, please note that *Neuschwanger* . in addition to totally failing to disclose a cowl grill structure also functioning to define the windshield washer apparatus, further totally fails to satisfy the requirement of claim 22 that the channel for delivery of the washer fluid be defined by a molding secured along a rear edge of the main body portion of the cowl structure between the rear edge of the main body portion and the lower edge of the motor vehicle windshield. This specific structure is totally lacking in *Neuschwanger*, and is not taught by either of the secondary references.

Entry of the herein amendment and allowance of the application is respectfully requested. Please note that the herein amendments do not require any further searching and do not raise any new issues for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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